

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05761 160444Z
ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8924

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5761

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH,AU, IR
SUBJ: IAEA TA ASSIGNMENT OF I. SIHWEIL TO IRAN

REF: STATE 9250

1. SUMMARY: IN TELCON 14 JUNE WITH DR H. FARZIN, SCIATT LEARNED THAT AEOI HAS ADVISED IAEA OF DECISION NOT RPT NOT TO ACCEPT EXPERT I. SIHWEIL. REASON GIVEN IS HIGH COST. COST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TYPICAL EUROPEAN EXPERT AND SIHWEIL APPROXIMATES DOLS 2,500 PER MONTH PLUS DIFFERENCE IN ONE TIME RELOCATION COSTS, ACCORDING TO FARZIN. THIS BRINGS ADDED ANNUAL COST FOR SIHWEIL TO APPROXIMATELY DOLS 30,0000 MORE THAN EXPERT FROM OTHER ADVANCED COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING FARZIN'S MEETING IN VIENNA, THIS SUBJECT, (ATTENDED BY IAEA MISREP) FARZIN ADVISED SCIATT THAT HE WAS PREPARING RECOMMENDATION TO HIS MANAGEMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF SIHWEIL.

3. NEGATIVE DECISION WAS TAKEN BY DR ETEMAD HIMSELF WITHIN LAST SEVERAL DAYS, ACCORDING TO FARZIN, AFTER CONFERRING WITH CYRUS MANZOOR.

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4. SCIATT CALLED MANZOOR FOR CLARIFICATION OF DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND WAS TOLD THAT NEGATIVE DECISION WAS TAKEN WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY, BASED PRIMARILY ON FACT THAT AEOI WILL NEED MANY ADDITIONAL FOREIGN EXPERTS IN FUTURE AND TO ACCEPT UNUSUALLY HIGH COST FOR ONE NOMINEE AT THIS TIME WOULD ESTABLISH UNACCEPTABLE PRECEDENT FOR

AEOI. MANZOOR AGREED THAT NRC COOPERATION IS IMPORTANT TO AEOI AND THAT OTHER CANDIDATE EXPERTS FOR WORK HERE WILL BE CONSIDERED AT COST MORE NARLY COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN EXPERTS.

5. EMBASSY APPRECIATES COOPERATION SHOWN BY NRC AND IAEA ON THIS TA MATTER DURING LAST YEAR. WE URGE NRC, IN COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH IAEA, TO CONTINUE THIS SUPPORT BY BRINGING OTHER CANDIDATE SAFETY EXPERTS TO EMBASSY AND AEOI ATTENTION, ENUNCIATING AS MUCH COST INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE AT TIME CANDIDATE IS IDENTIFIED. IAEA'S SCHOLOSSBERT AND MUTRO, TOGETHER WITH IAEA MISREPS, ARE IN BEST POSITION TO MAKE COST COMPARISON FOR U.S. VIS-A-VIS OTHER ADVANCED COUNTRY EXPERTS, AND TO OUTLINE COST DIFFERENCES AT THE BEGINNING OF DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES. APPROACH TO TA ALONG THESE LINES WILL SAVE TIME AND ENERGY IN FUTURE, AND AVOID NEEDLESS STRESS ON CANDIDATE EXPERT, BY REDUCING APPRECIABLY PERIODS OF WAITING AND INDECISION. SULLIVAN

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